

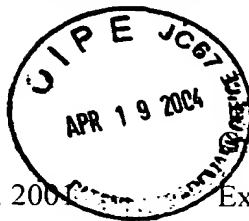
JFE

1731

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of
Takeshi Kamio, et al.

Serial No.: 09/987,404



Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: November 14, 2001

Examiner: Fiorilla, Christopher A.

For: METHOD FOR SINTERING POROUS-GLASS MATERIAL,
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING PREFORM AND OPTICAL
FIBER, AND POROUS-GLASS MATERIAL

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 through §1.99 and pursuant to applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, applicant respectfully brings the following documents, cited in the European Search Report and listed on the attached form PTO-1449, to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application. Copies of the listed documents are provided herewith for the convenience of the Examiner.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3), for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of the European Search Report citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

This citation does not constitute an admission that the references are relevant or material to the claims. They are only cited as constituting related art of which the applicant is aware.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was the first citation of that item by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, which occurred not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

It is respectfully requested that the listed references be considered by the Examiner and formally made of record in this application.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean M. McGinn

Registration No.: 34,386

Date: 4/19/04

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC

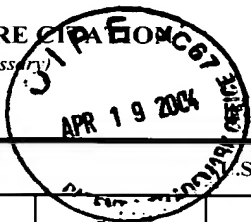
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(Use several sheets if necessary)



Docket Number (Optional) SH-0027US		Application Number 09/987,404
Applicant(s) Takeshi Kamio, et al.		
Filing Date November 14, 2001	Group Art Unit 1731	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,106,401	04/21/1992	Ishikawa et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO
	EP 1 035 082 A1	09/13/2000	Europe				
	EP 0 416 614 A1	03/13/1991	Europe				
	2000-256020	09/19/2000	Japan			ABS	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	European Search Report dated January 20, 2004.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.